



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services
Department**
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit
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Influenza Situational Summary – February 7, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 2/1/2015 through 2/7/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during 2/1/2015 through 2/7/2015 – Sales of over the counter (OTC) medications were not above the reporting threshold at either the county or zip code levels.*

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Network - percentage of all outpatient visits due to an influenza-like illness

- *Travis County – for the week ending 2/7/2015: 6.8% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – for the week ending 1/31/2015: 9.0% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. The percentage peaked in late December 2014-early January 2015*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/31/2015: 4.1% (base line is 2.0%); this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. This percentage peaked at 6.1% the week ending December 27, 2014.*

Laboratory surveillance (RT-PCR – real time- polymerase chain reaction)

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 1/31/2015; 18% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (81%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/31/2015; 17.5% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (91%) are positive for influenza A viruses. During the last two weeks of December 2014, the percentage of specimens positive for an influenza virus was 30% or higher.*

Institutional Outbreaks

- *A cluster of ill residents with respiratory illnesses testing positive for influenza A virus in one long-term care facility was reported on February 5, 2015.*

School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been 15 deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) among Austin/Travis County residents during the current flu season; 12 of the 15 persons were adults 50 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons among Austin/Travis County residents ranged from 2 to 22.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/31/2015; 8.5% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for this week.*